

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the above-mentioned application by amending the paragraph which starts on page 1, line 13 (paragraph [0003] of the Patent Application Publication) as follows (specifically, page 1, line 20):

The present invention relates to backpacks including, but not limited to, backpacks that include upper and lower compartments made from rigid materials. Devices, such as coolers, for carrying a variety of item particularly food or beverages that are preferably kept cool are known. Coolers are carried by hand and are difficult to carry over long distances, in crowds, or where having hands free would be an advantage. In addition, carrying devices that are supported from a person's shoulder or waist, particularly backpacks, fanny packs, and daypacks, are known. These types of devices are typically formed from soft cloth-like materials supported on a frame. The soft cloth-like material generally does not insulate and ~~does~~ not provide adequate protection against damage due to being bumped or crushed from the outside.

Please amend the above-mentioned application by amending the paragraph which starts on page 2, line 27 (paragraph [0005] of the Patent Application Publication) as follows:

A rigid backpack for use in carrying ~~items~~item that should be cool such as food, canned or bottled drinks, and so forth. The backpack includes at least one compartment and can include an upper compartment and a lower compartment that are formed from rigid material such as plastic or aluminum.

Please amend the above-mentioned application by amending the two consecutive paragraphs which starts at page 2, line 44 (paragraphs [0011] and [0012] of the Patent Application Publication) as follows:

A description of a rigid backpack for use in carrying and storing items that require cooling or are easily damaged, such as food, canned or bottle drinks and so forth, is provided. The rigid backpack includes at least one compartment and can include upper and lower compartments. The compartments are formed from rigid materials such as metal or formable plastics. The rigid materials can be formed into generally self-supporting fixed shapes, thus eliminating the need for separate supports or framing of any kind.

Separable lower and upper compartments of a rigid backpack are shown in FIG. 1. Generally, the compartments are polyhedrals with flat or curved surfaces. Alternatively, the compartments can have other shapes that are more spherical, have special design surfaces that reflect logos, and so forth. The compartments are rigid, and can be formed from either a single layer of material or from multiple layers. As evidenced by FIGs. 1 and 3, the compartments are self-supporting, generally, fixed shapes without framing or supports. Non-rigid layers can be used in combination with other layers of material so long as the overall combination of layers is rigid. For example, to insulate a compartment an outer metal layer that is rigid can be combined with a less rigid insulating layer. The rigid material can include metal, plastic, carbon fiber based materials, and so forth. The rigid material can be opaque or clear, for example clear plastic.

Please amend the above-mentioned application by amending the paragraph which starts on page 3, line 63 (paragraph [0014] of the Patent Application Publication) as follows:

The upper compartment 103 has a bottom wall 107, and an upper door 111. As shown in FIG. 1, the upper door 111 is mounted in an exterior surface of a non-removable section of the upper compartment to permit easy access to the compartment interior when the rigid backpack is in use such as during hiking. The bottom wall 107 of the upper compartment 103 and the top wall 105 of the lower compartment 101 have complementary surfaces that allow the upper compartment 103 to stack on top of and be removably attached to the lower compartment 101. The upper door 111, which can have a recessed latching mechanism, is used to access the space inside the upper compartment 103. The upper compartment 103 can have cylindrical container holders 115, 117 mounted to or molded into a top 113. The upper compartment 103 can be formed with an insulating layer of material and have a leak-resistant design so as to function as a cooler.

Please amend the above-mentioned application by amending the two consecutive paragraphs which start at page 4, line 89 (paragraphs [0017] and [0018] of the Patent Application Publication) as follows:

A single integrated rigid backpack having an upper compartment and a lower compartment that share a common wall in accordance with the invention is shown in FIG. 3. In this embodiment, the upper compartment 103 and the lower compartment 105 are formed as a single integral backpack 300. The upper and lower compartments are attached to each other by a single common wall ~~305(not shown)~~. The common wall forms a top of the lower compartment 301 and a bottom of the upper compartment 303. A lower door 309 allows access to the space inside the lower compartment 301. Similarly, an upper door 311, which is mounted in an

exterior surface of the upper compartment, allows access to the space inside the upper compartment 303.

An embodiment of a container mounted in an upper door in the upper compartment of a rigid backpack is shown in FIG. 4. The container 401~~(not shown)~~ that is attached to the upper door 111 extends into the upper compartment 103~~130~~. The container is formed for the storage of small items such as cigarette pack, lighter, sunglasses, or so forth that can be difficult to find or may be damaged if placed inside either the upper compartment 103 or the lower compartment (not shown). An access door 403~~135~~ for the container is mounted in the upper door 111.